



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONE JACK WOMAN SENTENCED FOR CHECK WRITING SCHEME

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lone Jack, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today to devising a check-writing scheme to defraud her employer of more than \$340,000.

Kathleen O. Liskey, 51, of Lone Jack, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$268,537.

On May 19, 2005, **Liskey** pleaded guilty to a one-count information charging her with check fraud, admitting to writing 56 fraudulent checks against her employer's bank accounts in a total amount of approximately \$341,566.43.

Liskey committed the offense while she was employed as a bookkeeper and accounting clerk for Old World Spices and Seasonings, Inc., in Kansas City. As bookkeeper and accounting clerk for the company, **Liskey** handled accounts payable and receivable and was responsible for reconciling the company's bank statements.

By pleading guilty to the information, **Liskey** admitted that, acting in her capacity as bookkeeper and accounting clerk, she wrote a fraudulent check against her employer's bank account at Commerce Bank in the amount of \$10,562.37.

In addition to that specific instance, **Liskey** also admitted that she wrote several other fraudulent checks while employed with the company between Sept. 20, 2003, and Dec. 10, 2004. **Liskey** admitted that she embezzled a total of \$341,566.43 from her employer by drawing checks on the company's bank account and making them payable to herself. In doing so, **Liskey** forged the signature of Old World Spices and Seasonings' chief operating officer on the checks. **Liskey** also admitted that she wrote checks drawn on the company's bank account made payable to R&D Packaging, a fictitious entity. **Liskey** would then deposit the checks into an account that she created under the name R&D Packaging at Farmers and Commercial Bank in Holden, Mo.

Liskey attempted to conceal this activity by logging the fraudulent checks as expense items under the company's furniture and equipment account, the depreciation account and the cost of goods account, Graves said. **Liskey** also admitted that she destroyed checks returned to the company with bank statements.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow